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PRIMARY ROLE OF THE COMMISSION – NATIONAL SERVICE

In order to fulfill their overall role, commissioners must become involved in a range of roles and activities. While each of these functions is interrelated with others, they are often categorized in three main areas: administrative functions, support to national and community service programs, and the larger role of sustaining service. An important priority is the commission's role in collaborative planning with national service to develop a State Service Plan for each state.

Because commission resources are, to some degree, always limited it is valuable for commissions to develop a clear sense of priorities as part of their strategic planning and seek to work as efficiently as possible to respond to the many demands inherent in their role. Commissions' efforts in setting priorities that build upon their primary role with national service, reflecting on their own progress, and systematic work toward building their capacity are all part of evolving to the point where they can respond both to new challenges and to new opportunities.

Though there are several funding sources providing funds for the Commission, the funding from the federal Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) grant is the source that supports the existence of the Commission in Nebraska. **Compliance with the CNCS regulations and all federal requirements to administer and manage AmeriCorps national service programs and coordinate with all national service in the state is the primary focus of the work of the Nebraska Commission.** The commission must have the staffing, operating procedures and systems in place that allows it to accomplish the specific responsibilities and be accountable for federal public funds. The functions may include other smaller roles the commission could include as part of long term strategies for supporting and enhancing community service and volunteerism in the state. Activities in these areas will be phased in as the needs and priorities of the state changes.